(b) It is possible to prevent hacking and unauthorized downloading etc. by formulating security policy and deploying Firewall. Further there are provisions for penalizing such offences under the IT Act, 2000.

(c) No, Sir.

Out of order VPTs in Chhattisgarh

†910. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that in June, 2002 more than 2100 telephones in Village Panchayats in Chhattisgarh were out of order which constitutes one third of the number of telephones;

(b) the number of telephones out of order as on date in Chhattisgarh;

(c) whether it is a fact that most of the defective telephones are functioning on old MARR technology;

(d) the number of defective telephones planned to be converted into new technology during the current financial year; and

(e) the number of village panchayats in Chhattisgarh where telephone facility is yet to be provided and by when the same is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are 2293 telephones out of order in Chhattisgarh State as on 15.11.2002.

(c) Yes, Sir. Out of the 2293 faulty Village Panchayat Telephones, 1670 are on old MARR technology.

(d) All the 1670 faulty Village Panchayat Telephones of MARR are planned to be replaced in the current financial year.

(e) 1931 Village Panchayats of Chhattisgarh are yet to be provided with telephone facility. Out of these 124 Village Panchayats are planned to be provided with telephones by BSNL by the end of August 2003, subject to availability of resources. While the rest 1807 Village Panchayats are planned to be covered by Private Basic Service Operators.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.